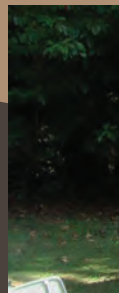


## It's Never Too Late to Learn



## Fun With Fungi

The fungus season started with promise, as the Bushcraft Magazine stand display at the Weald Wood Fair on the 17th of September (below) demonstrates.

October's drought in the south-east has rendered them thin on the ground. While we pray for rain, why not amuse yourself by seeing how many of those pictured you can identify? (Latin names, too, please). Send them in to [editor@bushcraft-magazine.co.uk](mailto:editor@bushcraft-magazine.co.uk) Highest number correct wins a prize.



Every now and then a special moment happens; this summer at Gilwell Scout Leaders Reunion I met a very special old gentleman, Laurie, of 89 years old. Laurie joined the Scouting movement at 16, at which time he tried fire by friction, with a few others, and just never succeeded, despite many attempts over many years, until now...

This made my year. I've taught this to many people over the years but this was a special moment.

Laurie watched me do a demo to a crowd of leaders and afterwards told me his history, briefly. As a scout he met Baden Powell and then made it through the Second World War to go back to the scouting movement to help disabled children become Scouts. He himself has had polio from the age of 4 and now is very poorly and has severe muscle wastage. I'm not even scratching the surface really, the man is amazing and I could have listened to him all day.

Well here it is shortened, still gives me goose bumps.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0VB18IX76E&feature=colike>

*JP Lamoureux*  
Woodlife Trails

Once in a while something comes along that just has to be shared. I have a one pint Kelly Kettle that lives in the car. It lives there because, much as I love it, it's big, bulky and awkward to carry around strapped to the outside of a rucksack. It will now be retired.

The guys over at the Ultra Light Kettle Company have come up with a brilliant modern take on the double-walled storm kettle concept – the Mkettle! It is small and compact, but still manages to hold a pint. It has a unique neoprene sleeve, which means you can just pick it up and pour. The sleeve also insulates it nicely so that the water boils more quickly – in about 6 mins on a single wax/sawdust firelighter. It comes with a nice water-proof bag and silicone bung so you can carry your water in it for that solo brew. The Mkettle is so small it will fit in the side pocket of my rucksack and will probably find a permanent place there.

I think it is safe to say, I love it!

*Bardster*

<http://www.mkettle.com/>



## Competition Winner!

In TBM Summer 2011, Phil and Dawn Ireland offered a prize of £10 worth of Green Wych Natural Body Care Products for the most novel use of a cartridge safe. And the winner is 9 year old Finn Buckingham Rhyder for his suggestion of *a pastry cutter!*

Phil and Dawn said, "It's certainly the most bizarre...so that would cover novel, we reckon. It's not keeping something inside the match safe, but then we didn't specify you had to do that, just the most novel use."

Phil reckons you could use that method to make mini ravioli...Dawn thinks you'd have to have fairy fingers to achieve that! But could do pastry circles for pie crusts.



## Vogelbeerschnaps

Vogelbeerschnaps (lit. *Bird -berry schnaps*) is a spirit distilled from Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*) berries, in the Austrian provinces of Tyrol and Styria. Ever eager to try wild ingredients in liquid form, I

ordered mine through [online-supermarkt.at](http://online-supermarkt.at). This site is run in partnership with The United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, and a small percentage of your outlay goes towards the fund. The drink is characterized by "a subtle note of bitter almonds and a distinct, intense, long-lasting flavour." What they mean is, it tastes like liquid fire." In folk-medicine Vogelbeerschnaps is much valued. It is reputed to be a remedy against common cold, rheumatism, diabetes, kidney and urinary diseases and it is said to stimulate metabolism." I am, of course, glad to be receiving the health benefits.

Rowan was, only a hundred years ago, fermented into *diod griafol* (lit. *Rowan drink*) in Wales, but the recipe and technique is, sadly, now lost.

In Estonia, they make *pihlaka vein*, (rowan wine), in the same way as cider; by crushing and pressing rowan berries and fermenting the juice.



## My Favourite Bit of Kit

This has to be the ubiquitous multi-tool.

Widely condemned as being a hash of second grade toys, mine is on my belt constantly, and has got me out of trouble on countless occasions.

I like to keep it simple, as a heavy ungainly lump of stainless is not going to stay on your belt for long. Who needs a toothpick or a nail file in the woods anyway?

Quality is not always dependent on price. A friend was presented with a US Marine Corps issue tool and found that his flat blade screwdriver bent just as easily as my £4.99 version did. The stainless blade doesn't keep a keen edge for long but with regular sharpening it's there when you need it.

Phil Ireland



Photo: Phil Ireland